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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,285	04/14/2004	Bradley M. Ratliff	103752-48754	6051

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EXAMINER

TANINGCO, MARCUS H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/824,285	Applicant(s) RATLIFF ET AL.	
	Examiner Marcus H. Tanningco	Art Unit 2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-35 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobson et al. (US 5,866,900).

Re claims 1-3, Jacobson et al. discloses a method comprising the steps of: detecting energy from a scene **14** in a focal plane array **32**, generating an output, and correcting the output generated by a first subset of detectors and the output generated by a second subset of detectors using the correction provided to the first subset of detectors (Col. 1, 54-67; Col. 2, 1-9).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-35 are allowed.

Claims 4-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 4 recites the limitation of a blackbody source defined by a blackbody density function.

Claim 5 recites the limitation of a method comprising the step of adjusting each detector's gain to one and each detector's bias to zero in the first subset of the detectors.

Claim 6 recites the limitation of a method comprising the step of adjusting each detector's gain to one and each detector's bias to a defined value in the first subset of the detectors.

Claim 9 recites the limitation of a method comprising the step of adjusting each detector's gain to a preset value and each detector's bias to zero in the first subset of the detectors.

Claim 10 recites the limitation of a method comprising the step of adjusting each detector's gain to a preset value and each detector's bias to a defined value in the first subset of the detectors.

Re claim 13, prior art teaches correcting at least one first and at least one second detector to generate an image based on the corrected information whereas the applicant recited the limitation of calibrating at least one first detector to generate a calibration information and generating an image using at least one second detector, wherein the generated image is altered as a function of the calibration information.

Claim 28 recites the limitation wherein each inner detector generating a readout signal according to: $y_n(i,j) = a_{n,s}(i,j)z_n(i,j) + b_n(i,j)$ where $a_{n,s}(i,j)$ and $b_n(i,j)$ are gain and bias for each inner detector having coordinates i and j with the readout signal measured at time n .

Claim 31 recites the limitation wherein the imaging system provides a first and a second off-axis parabolic mirror.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Anderson et al. (US 20030213910) discloses a microbolometer focal plane array. Harder et al. (US 5,705,811) discloses a system for calibrating an image detector. Harder et al. (US 5,886,834) discloses a passive scene base calibration system. Cannata et al. (US 5,811,808) discloses an infrared imaging system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus H. Taningco whose telephone number is (571) 272-1848. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MT


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